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§ 48. *Valeriana sylvatica*, Richards.—This rare plant, which has been found in only two or three places in the State and then in the northern and western part, grows very abundantly in some of the marshes and swamps about Pine Plains. I detected it first last October, in a large marsh two or three miles south of the village. Having never seen *V. sylvatica* before, I was unable at the time fully to identify it, as there were no signs of flowers or fruit,—only the radical leaves remaining, and these, contrary to description, being much toothed. I potted a fine specimen, and kept it with the other house plants, and, in the latter part of January, it came out in full bloom, but, by an unlucky accident, the stem was broken before the fruit matured. In the latter part of May, the plants in the marshes were in blossom. There were acres of them, and the marshes were whitened by their showy corymbs, like some meadows by the *ox-eye daisy*. A few were tinged with the color of the rose, but most of them were simply white. When growing in such profusion, in blossom they make a showy spectacle, and the striking effect produced cannot fail to attract the attention of the most indifferent rustic. During the past month I have found *V. sylvatica* growing in three or four other marshes and swamps, which are in different directions from the village, and six or seven miles apart. Though flourishing as luxuriantly, it shows a wider range than *Salix concolor*, Ging., which with us is confined to one habitat. The plant which grows here, may turn out to be a *variety* of *V. sylvatica*, as it does not tally very well with the descriptions given, not only in the root leaves which are coarsely toothed,—crenate,—most of them having two or three pairs of lobes each, the bases of all being very oblique, but the flowers also show a dissimilarity to the typical characteristics of the species. The fruit may differ also, but I have not yet been able to obtain any nearly mature. Dr. Gray gives its habitat in “Cedar swamps,” but no cedar of any kind grows in our marshes or swamps, although *Juniperus Virginiana*, L., grows very abundantly on our surrounding hills. Its most noticeable companion plants, that is, growing together with or in close proximity to it, are *Betula pumila*, L., *Rhamnus alnifolius*, L’Her., *Myrica Gale*, L., *Viburnum Opulus*, L., *Menyanthes trifolia*, L., *Ledum latifolium*, Ait., *Chiogenes hispidula*, Torr. and Gr., *Salix candida*, Willd., *S. myrtilloides*, L., *Cypripedium spectabile*, Swartz, etc. The marshes are a little lower than the village, which is about 300 feet above Hudson River or the sea. Considering the rarity of *V. sylvatica* in this part of our country, I trust its detection in Pine Plains will be regarded as a very good addition to the Flora of the lower Hudson River Valley,—since, so far as I have learned, it has not been found so far south in this part of the United States. The following are its habitats previously known in New York, according to Prof. Peck, the State Botanist; Wayne County, near Lake Ontario; West Bergen Swamp, Genesee County; and Warren, Herkimer County.

PINE PLAINS, N. Y., July 8th, 1875.

LYMAN H. HOYSRADT.